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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao

CONFERENCE IN NORTH, NORTHWEST DISCUSSES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NORTH CHINA HOLDS ECONOMIC CONFERENCES -- Ta Kung Pao, 19 Oct 49

Pei-p'ing 18 October (NOMA) -- Since the latter part of September 1949, a large number of cities in North China have been convening general conferences of all classes of the population for discussion of current problems. Reports of such meetings have been received from Ch'in-hung-tao, T'ing-hsien (Tungchow), Jan-tan, and Ting-hsien in Hopeh; Hsin-hsiang in P'ing-yang; Yang-ch'uan, and T'ai-yuan in Shansi; and Ch'ang-chia-k'ou (Kalgan) and Yang-kuo in Chahar.

As a result of these conferences immediate problems of reconstruction affecting each area were clarified and the authorities and the masses brought into closer relationship.

At Ch'ang-chia-k'ou the pressing problems of a complete population census designed for ferret out匪特special agents, public health, and capital-labor relations were discussed.

At Yang-ch'uan the topics were restoration of coal and iron mines. The conference decided that the most important matter was restoration of state-operated mines, while at the same time giving aid to medium-sized private mining enterprises and elimination of wildcat mining.

At T'ai-yuan the facilitation of the movement of goods throughout the province, and the advancement of agriculture were discussed. The delegates urged the manufacture of greater quantities of agricultural implements and chemical fertilizers, organization of village investigation committees for adjustment of farmers' problems, and planned transport and marketing facilities.

At Chin-huang-tao a heated discussion centered around agricultural capital. Resolutions on labor-capital relations were passed, and four committees were organized to discuss tax collection, and rents, etc., and to present constructive resolutions. The delegates were free to discuss any topic, present ideas, devise plans,

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criticize freely the shortcomings of officials and cadresmen, and offer suggestions for improvement.

One policy criticized was that of embargoes on the removal of farm products from one jurisdiction to another, when, due to shortage of currency, farmers wished to barter crops for consumers' goods.

All classes and ranks of people were represented in these conferences. For example, at the Hsin-hsiang meeting the 105 delegates were divided as follows: labor 34, industry 12, education (teachers, students, and staff) 15, agriculture 4, municipal residents 8, Moslems 2, Civil and Military Administration 21, and Field Forces 4.

All democratic political parties and personages were represented in the delegation at the T'ai-yuan conference of 180 persons.

Active steps have been taken in different places to insure that the effects and results of these conferences shall be enthusiastically carried to the people in all the areas involved.

NORTHEAST HOLDS FINANCIAL CONFERENCE -- Ta Kung Pao, 19 Oct 49

Pei-ping, 19 October (NCNA) -- The financial officers of the provinces and municipalities of the Northeast were called together in September 1949 by the Ministry of Finance of the Northeast People's government to discuss the economic responsibilities of the government in a period when the whole economic strength of the area will be employed in reconstruction.

The conference discussed the basic experiences of the last 3 years in financial affairs from the following points of view.

1. The work of a provincial or municipal financial department should be based on a clear policy. The policy during the past 3 years has been to support the revolutionary war. In the future the principal responsibility will be to promote economic reconstruction.
2. The foundation of financial strength is expanding production. Given this, social prosperity will increase and finances can be managed.
3. Financial activities are a strong weapon in the struggle for reconstruction.

The financial budget is an index of the people's economy. The duty of finance authorities is the distribution and regulation of the national economy. All financial policies, regulations, and development should include both promotion and limitation of economic programs.

After an examination of the receipts and disbursements of the first 6 months of 1949 the conference pointed out that the operations of this 6 month period confirmed the validity of the basic plans. The capital of industrial, mining, and railroad enterprises was increased, and funds were provided for communications, agricultural forestry, and the cultural interests of the people, thus expanding the the economic and cultural reconstruction of the Northeast.

Due to inexperience in city economy, city government finances are not in the best condition, but the situation is improving. State-operated enterprises, especially light industry, have not reached the desired goals. In the future, tax-collection policies must increase governmental revenue; stabilize currency and prices, and promote a desirable development in commercial and industrial production.

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In state-operated enterprises there is need of a better system of economic estimates and better financial inspection and control.

City financing requires a compact plan and a complete and reasonable system. Since the residents of a city are largely consumers, city financing requires: (1) an accurate survey of city dwellers' incomes and their tax-paying abilities, and (2) strengthening economic planning in municipally operated production industries and public utilities. In addition, the management, rental and deed taxes, abattoir taxes, etc., are very important.

The conference outlined plans for a rural financial program in the Northeast to strengthen the people's livelihood and raise their standards of living. Relief plans for stricken areas were made, as well as plans for rural governmental and educational financing, including control of public fields and property to lighten the burdens of the farmers.

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